

Durham Environmental Affairs Board

Tuesday, June 27, 2000, 6:00 PM

Durham City Hall, 2nd Floor Committee Room

Meeting Notes

Attendance. Members present included Hunter Bacot, Jim Conner, Ed Harrison, Steve Hiltner, Joe Jackson, Marion Johnson-Thompson and Brian Morton. Staff present included Doug Vaughn, Keith Luck and Glen Whisler. Guests present included Ellen Reckhow.

Call to Order. Chairman Joe Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Notes from the previous meeting were approved without corrections or additions.

Tour. Steve Hiltner mentioned an upcoming tour of stormwater controls and wetlands to be conducted by Craven Hudson. The tour is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2000 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ed Harrison expressed concern about the ability of elected officials to attend since two meetings of elected officials are normally scheduled for the second Wednesday. Steve and Ed will approach Craven about possibly changing the date.

EAB Initiatives. EAB work activities have generally responded to requests from the two elected boards, but members thought that it would be valuable to identify a clear set of EAB initiatives for the coming year. Ellen Reckhow mentioned the possibility of the EAB working to develop a set of environmental benchmarks or indicators on quality of life issues. She noted a student-prepared report that covered indicators related to health care, economic development and the natural environment. Brian noted that the easy part would be to find indicators, but the hard part would be to find indicators that would actually be used to guide policy decisions of elected boards and City/County departments. He also mentioned a quality of life indicators newsletter and web site(s) related to indicators that might be helpful. Jim Conner cautioned that quality of life indicators should be focus on the areas of policy over which local government leaders have influence. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Brian that the EAB adopt the task of developing benchmarks or indicators and that a committee be formed subject to the direction of the Chair to begin the study. The motion was adopted unanimously and Chairman Jackson appointed Brian, Marion, Jim and Hunter to serve on the committee.

Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Notes prepared by Keith Luck, Durham City-County Planning